

In Conclusion

Computer technicians are specifically named as mandated reporters in South Carolina. As a computer technician, you may have the occasion to see photographs, and other data that are questionable in nature, and appear to depict children being exploited and/or abused. You are required to make a report of this information, if you have reason to believe, that a child has been abused. You need not have conclusive proof, only a reason to believe, that the child depicted in the photographs or data is a victim of abuse. In making a report, you are not accusing anyone of anything; you are only requesting an investigation into your concerns about what you have seen.

State Law requires that your identity is confidential. You are immune from criminal and civil liability, as long as you report in good faith.



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Child Abuse and Neglect

Computer Technicians As Mandated Reporters



Children's Law Center
School of Law
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Mandated Reporting S.C. Code § 20-7-510 et. seq.



Mandatory Reporters

Computer technicians, as well as certain other professionals, are required to report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect.

When do you report?

Making a report

As a mandated reporter, you **MUST** report when you **have reason to believe** a child has been or may have been affected by abuse or neglect. You do not need conclusive proof that the child has been abused.

Indicators of Abuse

The type of abuse you are most likely to see as a computer technician is sexual exploitation of a minor or the sexual abuse of a minor. You may also see information that leads you to believe a person is attempting to contact a minor for the express purpose of engaging that minor in sexual behavior.

You have received this information in your professional capacity and are required to report.

Where to report?

You may make the report to DSS or law enforcement. Computer technicians are also required under SC Code § 16-3-850, to report this information to law enforcement.

Confidentiality

DSS and law enforcement are required by law to keep the identity of the person making the report confidential.

Immunity from Liability

Sometimes people fail to report because they are afraid they will be sued. Mandated reporters are protected from civil and criminal liability, as long as the report is made in **good faith**.



The law creates a rebuttable presumption that mandated reporters have reported in good faith.

Penalties for Failure to Report

If you fail to report you may be charged and if convicted, fined up to \$500 or imprisoned up to six months, or both.

Additional Information/Training

If you would like additional information or training on this topic, please contact us at:

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